

# NEWS from



Bill Postmus  
Supervisor, 1st District

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Contact: Brad Mitzelfelt  
(909) 387-4830

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## **SUPERVISORS AWARD CONTRACT FOR FORT IRWIN ROAD REPAIRS**

SAN BERNARDINO--The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today awarded a contract to Sully-Miller Contracting Company of Victorville in the amount of \$698,776 to make repairs along 10 miles of Fort Irwin Road between Interstate 15 and the entrance to Fort Irwin.

First District Supervisor Bill Postmus said the long-overdue work is anticipated to commence in October and be completed in November.

The project is the first of two efforts to improve the roadway. It will result in resurfacing of the road with new asphalt concrete in two areas including a section from I-15 to approximately 4.5 miles north and a 5.5-mile section of the 23-mile-long road south of the main gate entrance to the base.

Funding for 80 percent of the contract amount (\$559,021) is being provided from federal highway funds, and 20 percent is being paid for with local gasoline taxes. The total project cost is expected to reach approximately \$1.05 million, Postmus said.

Postmus added that a second-phase improvement project is currently under design. The second phase will provide for widening (to 13-foot travel lanes with 10-foot shoulders) and resurfacing of the remaining 13 miles of the roadway as well as provide passing lanes at five locations between I-15 and the military installation. The construction of the second phase is currently scheduled to be accomplished in the spring and summer of 2003. The second phase is estimated to cost \$12 million and will be funded by the federal government due to the need for this important roadway leading to the Army's National Training Center.

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FORT IRWIN ROAD  
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Supervisor Postmus thanked U.S. Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-Redlands) for securing the funds to make these improvements possible and thanked Brigadier General James D. Thurman, Commanding General of the National Training Center and Fort Irwin, for his assistance and patience during the environmental review process.

"The soldiers and civilians who train, work and live at Fort Irwin can thank Congressman Lewis and General Thurman for helping us get this project back on track," Postmus said. "These projects are subject to stringent environmental procedures, which are an annoyance but are required under federal and state laws. General Thurman and his staff have been providing technical assistance and resources, and he and Congressman Lewis have brought a sense of urgency to get this project moving."

The road is located within the habitat of the desert tortoise, which is listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act. This has necessitated environmental procedures that are especially time-consuming, Postmus added. "These are requirements over which we have little control," he said.

However, Postmus said, "The good news is we have received environmental clearance for the rehabilitation project, and now that the contract is awarded, Phase One should be completed within 20 working days of the commencement of construction."

The widening/passing lane project has been in the environmental phase since July 2000 and is expected to take until January 2002 before the County receives approval of required environmental documents.

"The County of San Bernardino is working with many agencies to try and expedite these projects and the much needed repairs on Fort Irwin Road," Postmus said.